BEDWAS AND MACHEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

The PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1957.

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✶

1958.

Chairman	Councillor A. E. Gameson, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	Councillor C. Williams
Councillor Mrs. S. J. Graham	Councillor G. Phillips
H. Curtis	F. C. Dudden
H. Gibbon	F. Phipps
A. J. James	H. Ludlow
L. Vaughan	S. G. Lewis
W. H. Perrin	E. V. Matthews
G. Beeston, J.P.	A. Walley

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OFFICERS :-

Clerk of the Council	W. Ewart Morgan
Medical Officer of Health ...	K. P. Giles, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Surveyor and Engineer	R. Rutley
Chief Financial Officer	R. Humphreys, A.C.I.S.
Public Health Inspector...	H. R. Sulway, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector ...	I. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.
Bankers	Co-operative Wholesale Society

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS.

July, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of
The Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December, 1957.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of the District in Acres	approx. 6,200
Population (Census 1951)	8,712
Estimated Population (R.G. June, 1957)	9,710
Number of inhabited Houses (exclusive of Business and Licensed Premises) on 31.12.57	2,839
Rateable Value	£56,857
Rate in the £ Levied	£1 5s. 6d.
Product of the Penny Rate	Approx. £208

VARIATION IN POPULATION FIGURES

Year		
1951	Census Figures	8,712
1954	Estimated Mid-year R.G. Figures	9,520
1955	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	9,520
1956	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	9,650
1957	,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	9,710

BIRTH RATE

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	95	84	179
Illegitimate	4	4	8
Total...	99	88	187

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 19.25
Birth Rate for England and Wales 16.10

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	0	4	4

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births 20.9
Rate for England and Wales 22.4

DEATH RATE

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes	55	32	87

Death Rate per 1,000 population 8.96
Rate for England and Wales 11.5

MATERNAL DEATHS

Deaths from puerperal sepsis ..... NIL
Deaths from other puerperal causes ..... NIL

INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Total number of deaths ..... 3 Males

(included one under 4 weeks).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Per Thousand Live Births 16.00
Rate for England and Wales 23.00

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES
NIL

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (all forms)	0	0
Cancer (Stomach)	2	1
Cancer (Lung)	2	0
Cancer (other sites)	4	3
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	6	10
Coronary Disease, angina	6	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	1
Other Heart Disease	6	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	5	0
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ...	4	0
Gastritis, enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	8	6
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0
All other accidents	3	0
Suicide	2	0
Totals	55	32

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases Notifications received were as follows :-

DISEASE	Number of Cases
Scarlet Fever	4
Measles	330
Puerperal pyrexia	3
Dysentry	36
Polio-myelitis	1
Whooping cough...	15
Pneumonia	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	8
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	2
Total	400

WARD INCIDENCE (Excluding Tuberculosis)

WARD	W'p'g Cough	Sc'l't Fever	Measles	Dys-entry	Puer-pyrexia	Pneu-monia	Polio
Maesycwmmer ...	3	1	21	0	0	1	0
Bedwas	6	3	141	25	0	0	0
Trethomas	5	0	146	11	2	0	1
Machen	1	0	22	0	1	0	0
Totals	15	4	330	36	3	1	1

The epidemic of measles was of a slight character and there were no complications reported.

The outbreak of dysentry was prevalent to a great extent before any reports were received at the health department and though every effort was made to discover the possible source of the trouble nothing was discovered which could be traced as a possible cause.

Every advice was given to the public and disinfectants given free to the persons affected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The incidence of tuberculosis is still showing a decline exspecially the Non-pulmonary type as is shown by a comparison with a few previous years as follows :-

Year	NO. OF CASES Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Total
1954	14	1	15
1955	13	0	13
1956	11	0	11
1957	8	2	10

CASES NOTIFIED AND MORTALITY DURING 1957

Age Period	NEW CASES Males	NEW CASES Females	MORTALITY Males	MORTALITY Females
0 to 1 year	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years	0	1	0	0
5 to 10 years	0	0	0	0
10 to 15 years	0	0	0	0
15 to 20 years	1	0	0	0
20 to 25 years	0	0	0	0
25 to 35 years	2	1	0	0
35 to 45 years	1	0	0	0
45 to 55 years	2	1	0	0
55 years and over ...	1	0	0	0
Totals	7	3	0	0

WARD INCIDENCE

of Cases Notified

Ward	Males	Females
Maesycwmmer ...	3	1
Bedwas	1	1
Trethomas	2	1
Machen	1	0
Totals	7	3

No deaths from Tuberculosis reported during the year.

HOUSING.

	Temporary	Permanent
1. Number of separate dwellings owned by the local authority on the 31st December, 1957	50	940

2. Total number of new separate dwellings completed during the year
   (a) By the local authority 5
   (b) By Private Enterprise 7

* * *

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF COUNCIL-OWNED HOUSES

Ward	No. of Houses
Maesycwmmer	151
Bedwas	348
Trethomas	315
Machen	176
Total at end of the year 1957	990

* *

HOUSING ACT, 1949, as Amended by Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS

Number of Grants made during 1957	5
Amount of Grants made during 1957	£1,232
Total number of Grants 1949 to 1957	29
Total amount of Grants 1949 - to 1957	£5,572

IMPROVEMENT LOANS

Loans made during 1957	NIL
Total number of Loans 1949 to 1957	5
Total amounts of Loans 1949 to 1957	£1,585

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

K. P. GILES,

Medical Officer of Health

COUNCIL OFFICES,

BEDWAS,

July, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Graham and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1957.

NOTICES SERVED.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Secs. 92 and 93). (Abatement of Nuisances : Repairs to Properties)	
Intimation Notices	74
Abatement Notices	3
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sec. 269) :	
Nuisance from Moveable Dwellings	1
3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sec. 83) :-	
Cleansing of Premises	4

HOUSING ACTS

On the 1st September, 1957, the new Housing Act, 1957, came into force, when the whole of the legislation relating to housing, with the exception of certain financial provisions, was consolidated in this same Act.

A standard of fitness is set out in Section 4 of the 1957 Housing Act and a house is only to be deemed unfit if, and only if, it is so far defective in one or more of the items listed in that Section, that it is not reasonably fit for occupation in that condition.

It is no longer permissible to consider how far a house falls below the local Building Byelaws, and the definition of " sanitary defects " formerly contained in section 188 of the 1936 Act is repealed.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. Houses Demolished

IN CLEARANCE AREAS

(Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and Housing Act, 1957

	Houses Demolished
1. Houses unfit for human habitation	NIL
2. Houses included (bad arrangement)	NIL
3. Houses on land acquired (Sect. 27 H.A. 1936)	NIL

NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS :

4. As a result of formal or informal action under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 and Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957

NIL

B. Unfit Houses Closed.

	Houses Demolished
Under all legislation	NIL

C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which defects were remedied :

	By Own	By Local Authority
8. After informal action by local authority ...	79	—
9. After formal notice under :-		
(a) Public Health Acts	15	NIL
(b) Housing Acts	NIL	NIL

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use :

(Housing Repairs Act, 1954 and Housing Act, 1957)

NIL

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement.

NIL

Therefore, if a house is below Byclaw standards, it does not necessarily mean that it is unfit for occupation.

This somewhat complicates matters where, in some of the properties in this area have low ceiling heights, etc., which do not conform with the local Byelaws.

This standard of fitness laid down in the 1957 Act, will place a new complexion on some of the properties the Council have listed for action under the " Slum Clearance " programme.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

RENT ACT, 1957.

Number of Applications received for certificates of disrepair :-

Total at the 31st December	20
Notices sent to landlords (Form J)	20
Undertakings received from landlords	12
Certificates of Disrepair issued	10
Applications for cancellations	NIL

COUNCIL HOUSES.

There are a very small proportion of Council House tenants who are inclined to be dirty and do not quite come up to the standard of desirable tenants. These people are visited periodically and every attempt is made to keep them in a reasonably fit state of cleanliness.

All the prospective tenants for Council houses are visited and where exchange of tenancies are agreed to, the respective houses are visited by a member of the engineer's staff and myself.

Number of visits and re-visits during the year for the above purpose.....38

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Much time was spent in attempting to trace the cause of the slight epidemic of dysentry in the Trethomas and Bedwas Wards.

The time lapse between the onset of the first cases and the notification to the office was such that when the enquiries with regard to the foods or drink the patients had partaken of were made, the majority could not remember. No possible vehicles of the infection was definitely isolated as a probable cause and instructions were given to the people with regard to the precautions to be taken and stress was laid with regard to personal cleanliness. Disinfectants were given to the people affected.

Terminal disinfection of 5 premises was carried out at the termination of the infection.

WATER SUPPLY

The Council is a constituent member of the Rhymney Valley Water Board and the water supplies to the area are of good quality and sufficient for the needs of the district.

Water sampling is carried out by the Board and spot samplings have been taken by the health department, which have been submitted for analyses and have proved satisfactory.

Number of samples taken by me during the year 8

SWIMMING POOLS

One privately owned swimming pool is situated in the Maesycwmmer Ward. The water is treated and samples taken are satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Rhymney, which flows through the area is still polluted with the effluents from collieries and associated industries prior to its entry into the area.

One stream which accepts the drainage from the Bedwas Colliery and the British Benzol Coal Distillation Plant is also a contibuting factor to the pollution of the river.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

During the year complaints were received of pollution of the atmosphere in the Trethomas Ward and on investigation it was due to a mechanical breakdown at the Coal Distillation Plant, and was soon remedied.

The district is without any heavy industries and the main cause of pollution is the domestic chimney, and as most of the inhabitants of the area are employed at the collieries and receive coals as part of their wages at a concessionary price, the pollution is likely to continue.

The Clean Air Act, provides for the designation of Smokeless Zones, but smokeless fuels must be made available to these same people, before any part of the area can be designated.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk Supply.

Licences issued for the sale of designated milks :-

1. Dealer's Licences (Pasteurised Milk).....3
2. Dealer's Licence (Tuberculin Tested Milk) 1
3. Dealer's Licences (Sterilised Milk).....3
4. Supplementary Licences for sale of milk by retailers from outside the area.....2

Eight samples of milk were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and the results were satisfactory in all cases.

Ice-Cream.

Twenty premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream. The product is obtained from reliable firms of manufacturers and wholesalers and, in the majority of instances, is sold as it is received from the manufacturers, pre-packed.

In one case only is the ice-cream prepared and sold and the method employed is the " Hot-mix."

Food Shops.

The majority of the food shops are covered by the general term " General Stores " where almost anything in the category of food can be purchased, which complicates the supervision of the shops under the Shops Acts.

There are 48 such shops in the area, mostly owner-occupied where no other person is employed other than members of the family.

Only about half-a-dozen shops in the district are mainly engaged in the Grocery and Provisions trade and these are gradually adding other commodities to their stock-in-trade.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Preliminary notices served 8

Formal Notices served 4

All the above notices were complied with and no further action was taken.

During the year, the following food-stuffs have been surrendered and condemnation notes issued :-

MEATS :	CANNED MEATS :-
86 lbs. bacon	13 cans Shoulder Hams
14 lbs. roast pork	(ave. wgt. 13 lbs.)
32 lbs. pickled beef	14 cans Corned Beef
	8 cans Chopped Ham
	2 cans Minced Beef

108 cans of various fruits ; 28 tins of fish products ; 32 cans of soups ; 27 cans of various vegetables.

The sampling of foods under the Food and Drugs Act, is carried out by the Weights and Measures Department of the Monmouthshire County Council.

LICENSED PREMISES AND CLUBS.

All the licensed premises and clubs are now up to date with the exception of the Ty-yn-y-Pwll Inn, Trethomas, and in this particular instance extensive repairs and alterations are to be carried out n the very near future.

BAKEHOUSES.

The 3 bakehouses in the district, were visited and the standard of cleanliness, etc., is being maintained.

CANTEENS AND CAFES

The usual routine inspections were made to canteens and cafes. Posters were given to the members of the staffs to place in conspicuous positions relating to personal cleanliness etc., in the preparations and handling of foodstuffs.

Number of inspections during the year :-

School Canteens 6
Cafes and Factory canteens 12
Pithead Canteen 8

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year a 100 per cent post mortem examination of all the animals slaughtered at the 4 private slaughterhouses still in existence in the district.

These inspections have entailed Sunday work, on the part of your inspectors to ensure a safe supply of meat from these establishments.

The Additional Public Health Inspector is employed full time in meat inspection duties at the Co-operative Wholesale Society Abbattoir, from which establishment, most of the meat is distributed to districts outside the Urban Area of Bedwas and Machen, and which fact, makes the inspections of the meat of extreme importance.

The statistics of slaughter of animals and inspections are as follows :-

	Total No. of animals slaughtered	No. Inspected
1. Co-operative Wholesale Society Abbattoir	29,658	29,658
2. The other Slaughterhouses	8,197	8,197

Total weight of meat and offals condemned :-
Approximately ..... **20 tons 17 cwts.**

SLAUGHTERING STATISTICS

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3,379	6	401	25,502	8,567
Number Inspected	3,379	6	401	25,502	8,567

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTERCERCOSIS

Whole Carcases condemned	3	0	0	18	29
Carcases of which part or organ condemned	1,287	2	5	326	611
Percentage of number affected with disease	37.8	33.3	1	1.23	7.1

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcases condemned	10	0	0	0	4
Carcases of which part or organ Condemned	596	0	0	0	675
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis	17.63	0	0	0	7.88

CYSTERCERCOSIS

Carcases of which some part or organ affected	32	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to re-frigeration treatment	32	0	0	0	0
Generalised and condemned . .	0	0	0	0	0

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY P ESTS ACT, 1949

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1958

		TYPE OF PROPERTY				
		Local Author-ority	Dwellings incl. Council Houses	All other incl. Business premises	Totals	Agric-cult-ural
1. Number of properties in the district		8	2,829	256	3,093	44
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :-						
(a) Notification . ..		0	58	0	58	0
(b) Survey under the Act		8	1,254	201	1,493	38
(c) Otherwise . . .		1	3	0	4	0
3. Number of inspections including re-inspections		18	602	41	661	2
4. Number of properties inspected in (2) found to be infested by :-						
(a) R \TS	Major	2	0	0	2	0
	Minor	4	72	1	77	12
(b) MICE	Major	0	16	0	16	0
	Minor	0	2	0	2	0
5. Number of infested properties treated by L.A.		6	90	0	96	0
6. Total treatments carried out		7	102	0	109	0

One Block Control scheme was carried out.

No action taken under Section 4 of the Act

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION.

One Rodent Operator is in the employ of the authority and the district is regularly patrolled to ascertain the extent of rodent infestation.

The regular six monthly token treatments of the sewers in the area were carried out and other probable sites where the rats flourish were constantly treated.

These treatments are well worth the time taken up to carry them out as it definitely keeps down the number of surface infestations.

When in any difficulty, I have always had advice and assistance from the Divisional Pest Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, for which I tender my thanks.

FACTORY AND WORKPLACE INSPECTIONS

Number of factories with mechanical power	5
Number of factories without mechanical power	6
Number of workplaces (Building Operations)	4
Number of inspections and re-inspections	18

Two notices were served respecting the provision of sanitary accommodation on building sites.

I again record my thanks to the officers of the Council for their assistance in providing some of the data for compiling the statistics contained in this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,

Public Health Inspector.